

homewardbound

Your support helps guide lost souls home.



My only regret is that I did not find God sooner.

by Shannon

It's great waking up knowing it will be a good day.

My name is Shannon. If you want to meet a grateful person this Thanksgiving season, just come and have a talk with me. For too long I felt I was living in the middle of a graveyard. It felt like there were voices all around me, accompanied by thunder and lightning. I was in a miserable, dark place — lonely and depressed. Today, when I wake up I say a prayer of thanks because I know it's going to be a good day. I'm grateful for everything I receive here at the Mission — the food, clothing, shelter, the Christian counseling and that I was able to graduate from the Victory program.

Because of your generosity I have been given a second chance.

Why am I here at the Mission? Because after being clean for eight years, I relapsed. I lost my job and my home.

Alcohol and drugs had been a part of my life since I was 20 years old. As a result I lost my friends, family and just about everything else meaningful to me. Perhaps you can see why I'm so thankful to God, to a donor like you, and to the Mission for giving me a second chance at life. My husband is also here at the Mission with me, and together we are making our marriage work as never before.

If for any reason you need to have a conversation with God, I would suggest you push your shoes under your bed, get on your knees and tell God everything that's on your heart. And while you're doing that, be sure you tell our Heavenly Father how thankful you are for the blessings He is giving you. Thank you for investing in my life and for giving me an opportunity to move on. God bless you at this season of Thanksgiving.

Mission Statement of the **Durham Rescue Mission**

“Our mission is to meet, through the power of Jesus Christ, the needs of the whole person — spiritual, educational, emotional, physical, vocational and social — so those who are hurting may become fully functioning members of society.”

BRING 5 CANNED FOOD ITEMS, RECEIVE A FREE CHICK-FIL-A® SANDWICH

On **September 22**, if you bring **5 canned food items** to the Chick-fil-A locations in Durham and Chapel Hill you will receive a **free Chick-fil-A® Chicken Sandwich or biscuit**. Chick-fil-A® is once again partnering with the Durham Rescue Mission to help stock our pantry for the holidays. Bring 5 canned food items and you will have the joy of knowing you have helped the hungry, and you can satisfy your own hunger with a delicious Chick-fil-A® Chicken Sandwich!



An Encouraging Word from the Founders

Dear Friend of the Durham Rescue Mission,

Before we write another word we want to say how grateful we are for your ongoing support of what God is doing in the once shattered lives of those who come through our doors. Over the years, we hear many words of gratitude expressed by our Mission guests. Our friends tell us they are thankful for safe shelter, nourishing food, clean clothing, Christian counseling, and for an opportunity to find gainful work after years of running the streets or living in a homeless condition. Many tell us because of their addictions, they were never in their right mind, whereas now they do their best to live with the mind of Christ. Our guests are also thankful no one around them is on drugs or using alcohol. This is why they feel safe. Our guests can sleep at night and walk around the Mission during the day without having to look over their shoulders.

Your support makes all the difference in the world.

I also want to tell you what we are most thankful for. When we started the Mission we housed only 12 men. Never in our wildest dreams did we think the Durham Rescue Mission would be as effective as it is today. Right now, 64% of the homeless in Durham are with us at the Mission. We are also humbled that Charity Navigator has rated the Mission the number one homeless services provider in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Before you put this newsletter down, we encourage you to read the stories of Robert and Shannon once again. When you do, please remember it's your prayers, donations and wholehearted support that contribute to these changed lives. What greater gift could you ever give to a human being? God bless you this Thanksgiving season. **Thank you for allowing us to share the love of Christ with so many.**

Ernie + Maile



I'm learning there is no hope in life without Jesus.

by Robert

There are not enough words to express my gratitude to you and to the Mission.

My name is Robert. I'm 40 years old, and for 21 of those years I was an addict. My life was miserable. I had many thoughts about committing suicide and was even put into a hospital for psychiatric evaluation. Hopelessness was my middle name. I saw others functioning normally around me, while I was anything but normal. I spent my money on Percocet and crack cocaine. One day, when no one was in the house, I sold two flat-screen TVs and all the furniture in the place to buy a few drugs. I probably sold those items for a little more than \$100. The woman I was with tried to find me to ask me what I'd done. But I

was already in the drug house. That's when she said she couldn't be around me anymore.

Thank you for helping a once lost soul like me.

I was once a dead man walking. I was without hope and without God in my life. Then a miracle happened: I walked through the doors of the Durham Rescue Mission, a day that started me on a whole new way to live. Today I'm clean and sober. God is in my life. I'm walking the straight and narrow. The past is past and all things are becoming new. Now I need to continue to stay in God's Word, talk

to Him daily in prayer and stick with the right kind of people. I'm so thankful to you for what you are doing to help a once lost soul like me. Without you and your generosity I would have had no place to go. Yes, I'm grateful for the shelter, clothing and food. But I'm most thankful to you for helping me repair my relationship with Jesus.

I saw others functioning normally around me, while I was anything but normal.



The Seeds We Plant in Life

More than 2,000 years ago, Socrates discussed the law of “cause and effect.” In essence, the philosopher said that if you want to keep having the same outcome, go back and see what you did that produced the effect you wanted. The flip side of the coin is the same: if you don't like your results, go back and see what you need to change.

Most of us probably agree the vast majority of things do not happen by accident: our lives work by the law of cause and effect. But, Scripture reminds us again and again we will always reap what we sow. So the question we ask our Mission guests day after day is this; “*What life seeds have you sown that*

brought you to the Mission?” Next question; “*Do you think it might be time to plant some different seeds . . . and achieve some different results?”*

When our friends decide to plant a new crop with new seeds, we remind them they've come to the right place. Because once those new seeds of hope in Christ are planted they begin to discover that they're now becoming the people God designed them to be. Thank you for being a vital part of this seed planting process — not only during this Thanksgiving season, but throughout the year.

To send your Thanksgiving donation today to help people in need, please use the remit slip enclosed, or visit us online at **www.DurhamRescueMission.org**. Thank you for helping us *plant seeds of hope* that promise new life in Christ.

Thank you for helping us *plant seeds of hope.*

Holiday Events – Mark Your Calendar

Help the Homeless and Needy in the Triangle

- Donate **frozen turkeys** or **hams** for upcoming holiday meals.
- Donate gently used **coats** for Thanksgiving dinner.
- Volunteer at the **“Wish Tree” at Northgate Mall** between November 25 and December 22.
- Donate **new toys, games, and books** for at-risk children for Christmas dinner, December 22.
- Volunteer to set up, serve, host a game booth, or clean up at events.

Call (919) 688-9641 ext. 5025 to register
or visit www.DurhamRescueMission.org for more details.

Fall Cleaning Time — Prepare for the Holidays

As you “fall clean,” remember to donate clothing, shoes and household items to help others. Having a yard sale? Bring items that didn’t sell to one of our locations listed below and receive a tax receipt:

- Durham Rescue Mission Thrift Store** — 3220 NC Hwy 55, Durham
- Durham Rescue Mission Thrift Store** — 10701 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh
- Durham Rescue Mission Thrift Store** — 3900 Chapel Hill Blvd., Durham
- Men’s Campus** — 1201 E Main St., Durham
- Women and Children’s Campus** — 507 E Knox St., Durham



chaplain's corner

by Reverend Rob Tart
Chief Operating Officer

In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus prayed, “After this manner therefore pray ye . . . Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.” This prayer was an example for us as we offer our prayers to our Heavenly Father. Jesus was instructing us in how to pray and what we should be praying about when we pray. Most people pray when a crisis occurs. Others pray about their physical needs, their personal health needs or those of a loved one or friend. Many people pray about jobs, the economy, etc. There is a time and place for such prayers. However, we should not neglect to pray for “God’s Will to be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”



MY THANKSGIVING GIFT

YES, Ernie and Gail!

It’s my pleasure to continue my support of the Mission this Thanksgiving Season.

Here’s my donation of:

- \$20.50** to provide **10** meals and other assistance
- \$30.75** to provide **15** meals and other assistance
- \$61.50** to provide **30** meals and other assistance
- \$_____ to provide as many meals and as much care as possible
- Please bill my credit card:
- VISA MC AMEX DISCOVER

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ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Durham Rescue Mission
PO Box 11368
Durham, NC 27703

► Please mail this completed form with your generous Thanksgiving gift, or you may donate on our secure website, www.DurhamRescueMission.org. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.